

NOTE

OXAEA AUSTERA GERSTAECKER IN BOLIVIA, WITH A
NEW HOST RECORD (HYMENOPTERA: APOIDEA)

Oxaea austera Gerstaecker is a rather little known South American bee that has been reported from a few collections made in northeastern and southern Brazil (Ceará, Maranhão, São Paulo, and Rio Grande do Sul), Paraguay and Mesopotamian Argentina (Ducke, 1910, *Revue d'Entomol.* (Caen), 28:82). Hurd and Linsley (1976, *Smiths. Contrib. Zool.*, 220) have recently summarized the few available records of floral hosts for the species. The purposes of this paper are to report the genus *Oxaea* and *O. austera* from Bolivia for the first time, to add a floral host to those already known for *O. austera*, and to report oxacids for the first time as visitors of Passifloraceae.

On 6 December 1973, I collected four males of *Oxaea austera* from blossoms of a trailing *Passiflora* sp. (Passifloraceae) growing along the roadside seven kilometers south of Warnes (ca. 17°30'S, 63°10'W, 375 m) in the Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. There, these robust bees (ca. 2 cm) approached the flowers very rapidly and then braked to hover stationarily in front of the blossoms before landing and entering them. This same behavior in males of *O. austera* was noted by Schrottky (1904, *Allgemeine Zeitschr. Entomol.* 9:346) at flowers of an exotic in Brazil, the motherwort, *Leonurus sibiricus* L. (Lamiaceae). This plant is the only previously known nectar source for males of *O. austera*.

The bees that I took from the *Passiflora* near Warnes were peppered with pollen and particularly so on their thoracic dorsa. It seems probable that these large bees are effective pollinators of at least this species of *Passiflora*. No *Oxaea* species has previously been recorded from *Passiflora* (see Hurd and Linsley, *supra cit.*, for a comprehensive summarization of the available floral records), and the genus is generally thought to be pollinated by carpenter bees (*Xylocopa* sp.) (Faegri and van der Pijl. 1971. *The Principles of Pollination Ecology*, ed. 2, Pergamon).

Thanks are due to Prof. J. S. Moure of the Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil, for his determinations of the bees and to Prof. Richard B. Selander of the University of Illinois, Urbana, for his support of the author's fieldwork in Bolivia. The specimens of *Oxaea austera* reported herein will be deposited in the collection of the Section of Faunistic Surveys and Insect Identification of the Illinois Natural History Survey at Urbana.

John K. Bouseman, *Agricultural Entomology, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station and Section of Economic Entomology, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois 61801.*